

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An apparatus for use with substantially tall tapered poles of a certain taper comprising:

- (a) a non-structural covering layer of plastic material[[;]] (b) — the layer adapted for positioning fixedly around at least a part of a pole exterior; and
- (c) the layer being a fraction of an inch thick and being formable into a truncated cone of at least several inches diameter substantially matching said certain taper, so that when the truncated cone is operatively installed, downward movement along the pole is deterred by substantially matching the taper of the truncated cone with said certain taper.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with a pole wherein the pole is 30 foot or longer when assembled.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with a pole wherein the pole is made of tubular material.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 3 in combination with a pole wherein the tubular material is steel.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with a pole wherein the pole is tapered.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with a pole wherein the pole is slip-fittable to a base positioned in the ground or on a support.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with a pole wherein the pole is elongated for elevating lighting fixtures on cross-arms.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with a pole wherein the pole comprises a plurality of sections.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the sections slip-fit together.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the apparatus comprises an independent covering layer for each pole section.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein each of the plurality of covering layers overlaps an adjacent covering layer.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the overlapping is succeeding lower parts over preceding upper parts of covering layers.

Claim 13 (Original). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a sheet material adapted to be wrapped around a pole.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sheet material is flexible.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sheet material comprises vinyl.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the vinyl comprises a vinyl/acrylic alloy.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the fraction of an inch thick is approximately .040 inches thick.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sheet material has top, bottom and opposite side edges.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of claim 19 wherein opposite side edges are rolled into a U-shape, both on the same side of the sheet material.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sheet material is trapezoidal when in a flat configuration.

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sheet material is trapezoidal in a flat orientation and includes rolled edges along opposite converging side edges.

Claim 23 (Original): The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the width of the sheet material is predesigned such that opposite side edges are adjacent but not overlapping when wrapped around a pole.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising a fastener to secure the sheet in a wrapped position around a pole.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the fastener comprises an elongated clip having a base with inwardly angled walls at opposite side edges of the base, in a normal position the inwardly angled walls defining an opening therebetween.

Claim 26 (Original): The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the inwardly angled walls are deformable upon application of sufficient force to hold them inwardly and downwardly so that they exert clamping pressure.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the deformable walls are adapted to clamp the rolled under edges of sheet material upon deformation.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a fastener adapted for passing through the sheet material and engagement with a pole or structure attached to a pole to prevent longitudinal movement of the sheet material.

Claim 29 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the fastener comprises a screw.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the fastener comprises a bolt and the item adapted for attachment to a pole or a nut.

Claim 31 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an opening formed in the covering layer.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the opening formed in the cover layer is adapted to correspond to an opening or structure on a pole.

Claim 33 (Original): The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising a sealing member adapted to be positioned around the opening in the covering layer.

Claim 34 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a seal on top of the covering layer relative the hole.

Claim 35 (Original): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the seal comprises a caulk-type material.

Claim 36 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the covering layer substantially covers all of a pole.

Claim 37 (Original): The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the covering layer is colored.

Claim 38 (Original): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the coloring is predesigned to match an environmental feature around a pole.

Claim 39 (Original): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the coloring is predesigned to correspond to a recognized combination of colors indicating affiliation with a group or organization.

Claim 40 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the covering layer is textured.

Claim 41 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the covering layer is patterned.

Claim 42 (Currently amended): A method of protecting the exterior of substantially tall tapered poles comprising:

- (a) covering at least a part of [[the]] a tapered pole that provides structural support sufficient to support an elevated structure with a separate non-structural plastic material which is a fraction of an inch thick that does not provide structural support relative to the structure;
and
- (b) fixing the material along the pole by forming the material into a truncated cone of at least several inches diameter substantially matching the taper of the pole so that downward movement along the pole is deterred by substantially matching the taper of the truncated cone with the taper of the pole.

Claim 43 (Original). The method of claim 42 wherein the step of covering comprises wrapping a portion of the pole with a sleeve.

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The method of claim 43 further comprising when wrapped around the pole, securing adjacent edges of the sleeve relative to one another.

Claim 45 (Original): The method of claim 43 further comprising securing the sleeve against longitudinal movement along the length of the pole.

Claim 46 (Original): The method of claim 42 wherein the substantially tall poles are 30 foot or longer.

Claim 47 (Original): The method of claim 43 wherein the pole is tapered and sleeve is trapezoidal when in flat position.

Claim 48 (Original): The method of claim 42 wherein the pole comprises a plurality of sections and the covering step comprises applying a plurality of sleeves in overlapping fashion to the pole.

Claim 49 (Currently amended): The method of claim 48 wherein the overlapping portions comprise overlapping succeeding portions ~~above~~ over preceding portions below.

Claim 50 (Original): The method of claim 42 wherein the covering part comprises a flexible vinyl/acrylic alloy material.

Claim 51 (Original). The method of claim 43 wherein the sleeve has rolled opposite edges.

Claim 52 (Original): The method of claim 42 further comprising sealing the top of the sleeve relative to the pole once wrapped on the pole.

Claim 53 (Original): The method of claim 42 wherein the covering part comprises at least one of preselected color, texture, or pattern.

Claim 54 (Currently amended): A combination for elevating items to substantial heights comprising:

- (a) an elongated tapered pole of thirty feet or more in length wherein the pole provides structural support sufficient to support an elevated structure;
- (b) a non-structural cover positionable over a substantial portion of the exterior of the pole, the cover being formable into a truncated cone of at least several inches diameter

substantially matching the taper of the pole so that downward movement along the pole is deterred by substantially matching the taper of the truncated cone with the taper of the pole;

(c) the cover which is a fraction of an inch thick wherein the cover does not provide structural support relative to the structure.

Claim 55 (Previously presented): The combination of claim 54 further comprising:

- (a) the cover comprising a plurality of trapezoidal shaped sheets predesigned in dimension and having opposite vertical rolled under edges;
- (b) the dimensions predesigned for wrapping each section of sleeve around a section of the pole such that opposite vertical rolled edges are adjacent but not overlapping;
- (c) a clip of C-shaped cross-section adapted to receive opposite rolled under edges of the sleeve section and deformable to clamp the rolled edges to secure the wrap sleeve to the pole.

Claim 56 (Currently amended): An apparatus for use with a substantially tall tapered pole[s] of a certain taper comprising:

- (a) a covering layer of material adapted to be positionable around at least a part of a pole exterior;
- (b) the covering layer comprising a non-structural, plastic, fraction of an inch thick sheet material adapted to be wrapped around a pole, the layer being formable into a truncated cone of at least several inches diameter substantially matching the certain taper such that downward movement along the pole is deterred by substantially matching the taper of the truncated cone with said certain taper;
- (c) the sheet material having top, bottom and opposite side edges; and
- (d) the opposite side edges rolled into a U-shape, both U-shapes extending on the same side of the sheet material.

Claim 57 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 in combination with a pole wherein the pole is 30 foot or longer when assembled.

Claim 58 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 in combination with a pole wherein the pole is tapered.

Claim 59 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 in combination with a pole wherein the poles are elongated for elevating lighting fixtures on cross-arms.

Claim 60 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the width of the sheet material is predesigned such that opposite side edges are adjacent but not overlapping when wrapped around a pole.

Claim 61 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 60 further comprising a fastener to secure the sheet in a wrapped position around a pole.

Claim 62 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 61 wherein the fastener comprises an elongated clip having a base with inwardly angled walls at opposite side edges of the base, in a normal position the inwardly angled walls defining an opening therebetween.

Claim 63 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the inwardly angled walls are deformable upon application of sufficient force to hold them inwardly and downwardly so that they exert clamping pressure.

Claim 64 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the deformable walls are adapted to clamp the rolled under edges of sheet material upon deformation.

Claim 65 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 further comprising a fastener adapted for passing through the sheet material and engagement with a pole or structure attached to a pole to prevent longitudinal movement of the sheet material.

Claim 66 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the fastener comprises a screw.

Claim 67 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the covering layer is adapted to substantially cover all of a pole.

Claim 68 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the covering layer is colored.

Claim 69 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 68 wherein the coloring is predesigned to match an environmental feature around a pole.

Claim 70 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 68 wherein the coloring is predesigned to correspond to a recognized combination of colors indicating affiliation with a group or organization.

Claim 71 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the covering layer is textured.

Claim 72 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the covering layer is patterned.

Claim 73 (Currently amended): An apparatus for use with substantially tall tapered poles of a certain taper comprising:

- (a) a covering layer of ~~non-structural~~ plastic, fraction of an inch thick material adapted to be positionable around at least a part of a pole exterior;
- (b) the covering layer comprising a sheet material adapted to be wrapped or placed around a pole, the layer being formable into a truncated cone of at least several inches diameter substantially matching a certain taper so that downward movement along the pole is detected by substantially matching the taper of the truncated cone with said certain taper;

(c) the sheet material is trapezoidal in a flat orientation and includes rolled edges along opposite converging side edges.

Claim 74 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 in combination with a pole wherein the pole is 30 foot or longer when assembled.

Claim 75 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 in combination with a pole wherein the pole is tapered.

Claim 76 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 in combination with a pole wherein the poles are elongated for elevating lighting fixtures on cross-arms.

Claim 77 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the width of the sheet material is predesigned such that opposite side edges are adjacent but not overlapping when wrapped around a pole.

Claim 78 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim [[78]]73 further comprising a fastener to secure the sheet in a wrapped position around a pole.

Claim 79 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 78 wherein the fastener comprises an elongated clip having a base with inwardly angled walls at opposite side edges of the base, in a normal position the inwardly angled walls defining an opening therebetween.

Claim 80 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 79 wherein the inwardly angled walls are deformable upon application of sufficient force to hold them inwardly and downwardly so that they exert clamping pressure.

Claim 81 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the deformable walls are adapted to clamp the rolled under edges of sheet material upon deformation.

Claim 82 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 further comprising a fastener adapted for passing through the sheet material and engagement with a pole or structure attached to a pole to prevent longitudinal movement of the sheet material.

Claim 83 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 82 wherein the fastener comprises a screw.

Claim 84 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the covering layer is adapted to substantially cover all of a pole.

Claim 85 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 84 wherein the covering layer is colored.

Claim 86 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the coloring is predesigned to match an environmental feature around a pole.

Claim 87 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the coloring is predesigned to correspond to a recognized combination of colors indicating affiliation with a group or organization.

Claim 88 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the covering layer is textured.

Claim 89 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the covering layer is patterned.